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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Risk Reduction Programs

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BACKGROUND

Natural and technological disasters adversely impact hundreds of thousands of people every year. USAID/OFDA is helping to minimize the impacts on vulnerable populations before, during, and after a disaster. USAID/OFDA works closely with communities as well as with national and local governments, international and regional organizations, universities, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to identify, manage, and reduce vulnerability to hazards through sustainable, multi-sectoral mitigation and preparedness programs. In addition to supporting programming related to floods, droughts, extreme weather, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, and volcanoes, USAID/OFDA provides technical assistance to strategically address risk reduction needs worldwide.

In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$35 million to support risk reduction activities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In addition, Congress provided approximately \$53 million to USAID/OFDA in FY 2006 for Avian Influenza preparedness activities.

Many of USAID/OFDA's programs in response to food insecurity include strong developmental relief components, intended specifically to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. These interventions range from the distribution of drought-tolerant crops and agricultural extension services, to the further development of community water management systems and resources. Like the risk reduction programs described below, USAID/OFDA's disaster response interventions are designed to support local response capacity and increase resilience.

At the January 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Hyogo, Japan, participants adapted the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. The framework enumerates the following priorities for action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Each USAID/OFDA risk reduction program promotes at least one of the five priorities, as listed above. The following information is a brief description of ongoing USAID/OFDA risk reduction programs, grouped according to the ISDR priority¹ that the respective program promotes.

FY 2006 USAID/OFDA RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS\$35 Million
FY 2006 USAID/OFDA AI PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES\$53 Million

PRIORITY 1 – Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

- Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project: The National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) in Kathmandu, Nepal, works with the Government of Nepal, NGOs, schools, and local communities to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness by coordinating and monitoring the long-term earthquake risk reduction plan for the Kathmandu Valley. The project began in September 2000 and will continue through August 2007.
- Greater Horn of Africa Flood Mitigation Initiative: To support flood emergency preparedness and disaster response, this initiative works to improve the capacities of regional and national institutions in the Greater Horn of Africa. To reduce vulnerability to flooding, the Greater Horn of Africa Flood Mitigation Initiative aims to enhance and implement

¹ USAID/OFDA risk reduction activities in this fact sheet are not necessarily listed in order of importance and are not grouped according to USAID/OFDA strategic priorities.

a range of products and tools for flood early warning, water resources management, and response and contingency planning at regional and national levels in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

- Pacific Islands Disaster Assistance Program: Since 1995, USAID/OFDA has supported this program, which improves the capacity and performance of local and national disaster management agencies and individuals, develops and adapts training materials, and strengthens the capacity of South Pacific nations to organize and conduct disaster management courses. This program has been implemented in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness in Mexico: USAID/OFDA, the U.S. Forest Service, and USAID/Mexico are developing a risk management plan, in support of the Government of Mexico National Forest Commission. Program activities are focused on prevention, preparedness, and planning. The program aims to strengthen awareness and preparedness of rural populations by assisting fire committees to develop emergency response operational plans.
- Regional Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction in South Africa: In 2006, USAID/OFDA partnered with the University of Cape Town to build sustainable multi-tasking capabilities in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction in selected institutions of higher learning in Africa, consistent with global disaster reduction priorities reflected in the Hyogo Framework. This program is building on local energies and commitments already generated from within the continent by supporting the progressive development of university-based risk reduction units and programs to build a range of context-specific capabilities in formal education, short course training, local research, and vulnerability reduction policy advocacy.
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Capacity in South Africa: In 2006, USAID/OFDA partnered with the Los Angeles and Fairfax Fire Departments to train South African USAR teams.
- Promoting the Private Sector Role for Disaster Assistance in China: USAID/OFDA is supporting The Asia Foundation (TAF) to enhance private sector participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, and to promote multi-sectoral disaster management approaches. TAF is cooperating with the American Chamber of Commerce, Chinese business associations, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which has a lead role in disaster management in China. The program is also involving domestic NGOs, charities, and other organizations.
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training: Co-funded by USAID/OFDA and USAID/India through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, this capacity-building program provides ICS training and simulation exercises at the national and state levels in India and the region. The program also provides technical assistance and training to government and non-government disaster managers to assist them in developing coordinated disaster response planning.

PRIORITY 2 – Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

- Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP): The USAID/OFDA-funded VDAP, implemented by USGS in 1986, provides technical assistance to national volcano monitoring organizations, and serves as the only international rapid-response volcano crisis team in the world. To date, VDAP has responded to 23 major crises and worked to build capacity in 11 countries, helping to save tens of thousands of lives and to safeguard property worth hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Asia Flood Network (AFN): AFN aims to strengthen the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting, directly involving at-risk communities to reduce vulnerability. USAID/OFDA, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the USGS are jointly implementing AFN. Current activities are focused on Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in the Mekong river basin and Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Megna river basin.
- Technical Assistance for the Development of the Pakistan National Seismic Network: Supported by USAID/OFDA through the USGS, this project assists the Government of Pakistan in establishing a new seismographic network of stations in and around earthquake-prone cities. This project is aiding in the construction of a critical national resource to protect vulnerable populations and minimize the loss of life.

- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC): With the World Meteorological Organization, ICPAC has implemented a regional seasonal climate prediction system and applications in various sectors in order to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with climate variability. In the ten Greater Horn of Africa countries, the project has improved climate monitoring, prediction, and applications, as well as early warning of climate-induced disasters.
- Globally Applicable Methods for Characterization of Flood Hazards: The U.N. Environment Program and the USGS, in coordination with the U.N. Development Program's Global Risk Identification Program and regional and national entities, are implementing this program, which aims to increase the effectiveness of flood preparedness and mitigation activities. Using globally available geographic and hydrometeorological data sets for river basins, the project will develop techniques and tools to permit characterization of flood hazards worldwide.
- NOAA Technical Assistance: Through an interagency agreement with USAID/OFDA, NOAA provides access to weather, climate, and hydrometeorology experts and information to build the capacity of national, international, and regional response bodies in reducing vulnerability to extreme hydrometeorological events.
- The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED): USAID/OFDA supports the Emergency Events Database maintained by CRED. This tool is available to the public online and provides information on disasters that have occurred in the past 100 years, allowing for trend analysis and historical comparisons.
- Geographic Information Support Team (GIST) Data Repository – Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) at University of Georgia: The GIST Data Repository contains base geographic data for countries of concern and is available to the humanitarian community and the public. ITOS also provides data preparedness and off-site data processing services for humanitarian purposes.
- Capacity Building for Flash Floods Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas: USAID/OFDA has supported technical assessments and forums for decision-makers and technical personnel from the Hindu Kush–Himalayan region to strengthen capacities on flash flood management, promote collaboration, and develop regional approaches to flood management, flood early warning systems, and broader transboundary water issues. A regional organization based in Nepal, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development hosts the forums, which include participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- Asia National Hazards Mitigation Program (NHM): An interagency agreement with USGS enables USAID/OFDA to quickly access experts in the fields of hydrology, meteorology, seismology, mapping/cartography/geographic information systems, biology, tsunamis, and landslides to assist before, during, and after natural disasters.
- Caribbean Tsunami Early Warning System: In August 2006, USAID/OFDA entered into an agreement with the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Unit to strengthen the unit's capacity to detect, monitor, and provide early warning of tsunamis and related geologic hazards. The first phase of the program is facilitating the development of information-sharing protocols among seismological agencies in support of a Tsunami and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Areas.
- Assessing Future Earthquake Risk in Algeria and Training Algerian Researchers: Following the May 2003 earthquake that killed approximately 2,300 people, USAID/OFDA provided funding for an earthquake mitigation project implemented by the USGS, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Institut de Physique du Globe in France, and Centre de Recherche en Astronomie Astrophysique et Géophysique in Algeria. The project has produced an improved assessment of earthquake risk in Algiers and the Tunisia–Northern Algeria–Morocco active seismic belt and provided seismic-hazard modeling training to Algerian researchers.
- Flood Early Warning Systems in Mozambique: Since 2003, USAID/OFDA has partnered with FEWS NET, Radio and Internet Technology for Communication of Weather and Climate Information (RANET), and USAID/Mozambique to support flood early warning in the Limpopo River Basin. The program includes flood risk mapping, community flood education, planning and preparedness, and radio broadcast. Similar programs in Mozambique are credited with the success in responding to heavy flooding in Mozambique in 2007.
- Protection Against Livelihood Loss: In partnership with the U.N. World Food Program, USAID/OFDA is supporting the development of a drought insurance program to protect against livelihood loss in Ethiopia. This innovative program seeks to use financial markets as mechanisms to reduce risk and to protect Ethiopian farmers against severe

livelihood loss amidst drought. The program is designed to support farmers in developing more productive coping mechanisms by providing them with resources to buffer against the liquidation of productive assets when faced with significant crop loss.

- Protection Surge Capacity Program (PROCAP): Through the Norwegian Refugee Council, USAID/OFDA is funding the PROCAP, is a standby protection program that deploys qualified and experienced protection specialists. Through this program, an emergency team of at least 10 senior protection officers is at the disposal of the U.N.'s protection-mandated agencies – the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In collaboration with NGO partners, this project is supporting the development of a second tier of 90 trained protection officers.

PRIORITY 3 – Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Global Seed Security Initiatives: Since 2001, USAID/OFDA has supported CIAT in improving the efficacy and cost efficiency of seed-based responses to agricultural disasters. CIAT is performing research and publishing and distributing best practices, needs assessment results, and other guidance materials.
- U.N. World Health Organization's Communicable Disease Control in Complex Emergencies: This program is designed to reduce morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases in populations affected by complex emergencies. The program provides technical and operational support, sets standards and develops new tools, provides training courses, and strengthens partnerships with ministries of health, local authorities, U.N. agencies, and NGOs. The program focuses on complex emergencies in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and southern Sudan.
- Community-based therapeutic care (CTC): With USAID/OFDA support, Valid International pioneered the CTC approach to the treatment of acute malnutrition, bringing nutrition services closer to the household and community through decentralized sites at existing community health facilities. With continued support from USAID/OFDA, the CTC approach has moved from the pilot phase to scale up in several countries and during several emergency responses. USAID/OFDA is training nutrition practitioners, actively advocating for the adoption of CTC protocols by country, supporting the development of a CTC training manual, and standardizing CTC training in Africa. USAID/OFDA has supported CTC programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad.
- Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), Phase II: PEER promotes disaster preparedness through the development of national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors. PEER is geared primarily towards earthquake preparedness, but is widely applicable to any collapsed structure or mass casualty situation. The first phase of PEER, managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), began in 1998 in India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Phase II, implemented by NSET, began in 2003 and continues to activities begun in the original countries with the addition of Bangladesh and Pakistan. USAID/OFDA has supported this program since 1998.
- Climate Forecast Applications: Implemented by ADPC beginning in 1998, this project strengthens the national capabilities of Indonesia and the Philippines to manage and reduce the impacts of climate fluctuations through targeted demonstration projects and community participation. The project makes climate forecasting information available to farmers and local communities, and helps them utilize the data for planting and other decision making purposes.
- Drought Preparedness: With USAID/OFDA support, CARE is implementing drought preparedness activities in Cambodia and East Timor. This program promotes community-based drought preparedness planning while also developing expertise in effective low-cost and innovative drought mitigation and preparedness technologies.
- Text Messaging Disaster Alert System in the Philippines: In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is providing funding through USAID/Philippines to help the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) implement a nationwide disaster alert system using text messages. This project is enabling the PNRC to issue alerts down to the sub-district level.
- Flood Early Warning Systems in the Mekong River Basin: In January 2003, USAID/OFDA and MRC, an inter-governmental river basin organization based in Laos, began an innovative demonstration project to strengthen warnings

to communities most at risk to floods. The five-year program develops appropriate flood information to enable the most vulnerable communities in Cambodia to effectively prepare for floods.

- Community Flood Monitoring and Forecasting in Bangladesh: This five-year USAID/OFDA project supports a community-based approach for flood monitoring and forecasting to reduce the vulnerability of communities living in flood plains and mitigate future flood damage in Bangladesh.
- Caribbean Training Course in Seismology and Tsunami Warnings: With support from USAID/OFDA, USGS is leading a training course in seismology and tsunami warnings at the Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad to complement the Caribbean tsunami early warning system, developed by the USGS and NOAA. The course will help key individuals in the Caribbean to develop a better understanding of regional tsunami risks, tsunami warnings, and best practices of warning centers.
- Assessment of LAC Risk Management Curricula – Phases I and II: Implemented by the Florida International University (FIU), Phase I of this project, completed in August 2004, assessed the state of disaster, emergency, or risk management instruction in higher education institutions in the LAC region. In Phase II, FIU is supporting three higher education institutions in South America to strengthen disaster management learning through creative and innovative approaches.
- U.S./Japan Community-Based Preparedness: USAID/OFDA is funding the Japan-based Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) to implement a disaster preparedness program through schools in Galle District, Sri Lanka. ADRC is working collaboratively with the Government of Sri Lanka's National Disaster Management Center and Department of Education to help raise awareness of natural disasters and to develop strategies and capacity building for risk reduction.
- School Disaster Preparedness Project in Honduras: USAID/OFDA is supporting a pilot effort by World Vision U.S. to teach basic disaster preparedness principles to approximately 4,400 children in 42 schools and educational centers in Honduras. The project is enhancing risk management capacity for all community members, including the parent associations, teachers, administrators, and program staff.
- Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Municipalities of Western Honduras: In September 2006, USAID/OFDA awarded a grant to Action of Churches Together to train and organize local emergency committees in 40 highly vulnerable communities in Honduras. The committees are creating risk maps and contingency plans, installing an early warning system, and implementing small-scale mitigation projects. This program aims to strengthen local and municipal coordination with existing governmental structures and civil society groups.
- Tufts University Livestock and Livelihoods, Phase II: Tufts University livestock specialists are working with local stakeholders and policymakers to better understand the role of livestock in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods systems, including interventions to improve productivity of livestock, particularly following crises. One significant component of this work is the development of an internationally accepted set of standards, modeled after the Sphere standards, for addressing emergency livestock issues. USAID/OFDA and other international donors are supporting this project.
- The Third USAID/OFDA International Gender and Disaster Conference: USAID/OFDA has sponsored a series of international conferences at Kocaeli University in Turkey to bring together regional specialists to discuss how to better identify and address gender issues associated with all types of disasters. Preparedness and mitigation are significant themes in these conferences.
- Cholera and Shigella Workshops: USAID/OFDA is supporting hands-on training on emergency response to cholera and shigella epidemics for health specialists worldwide. The International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh is conducting the training. Upon completion of the training, health workers develop an action plan for preparedness and response to epidemics for their respective organization.
- Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters: USAID/OFDA is funding the Brookings-Bern Institute on Internal Displacement, in collaboration with national governments, civil society, and international and regional organizations, to implement a capacity-building program to develop and promote the Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disaster, as well as an accompanying manual and CD-Rom. This capacity-building program includes training sessions, workshops, and technical assistance.

- Protection of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is funding the Brookings–Bern Institute on Internal Displacement to implement a capacity-building program to promote the incorporation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GPID) into domestic laws and policies through translations into local languages and worldwide dissemination of the GPID and related materials. The project also includes the redesign and maintenance of the project website and listserv and the development of a web-based database on IDP laws and policies.

PRIORITY 4 – Reduce the underlying risk factors.

- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA): In partnership with USAID/OFDA since 1999, IITA supports increased access to and availability of disease-free and mosaic-resistant planting stock, and dissemination of information to farmers to combat the disease. IITA is implementing programs in Kenya, Tanzania, and Burundi.
- Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA): AELGA provides technical, material, and financial assistance to mitigate and control the damage that emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) can inflict on livelihoods and economies among affected countries and populations. Since 1987, USAID/OFDA and USAID's Bureau for Africa have supported AELGA in developing and integrating safer, more affordable, and more effective pest management tools and policies. AELGA works closely with and supports the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization to strengthen national and regional capacities to avert ETOP crises. USAID/OFDA, through AELGA, supports initiatives that focus on disposing of toxic and dangerous obsolete pesticides.
- Drought Preparedness in India and Pakistan: Catholic Relief Services is implementing a three-year project to improve resilience to drought among communities in Rajasthan, India, and Sindh, Pakistan. Through this program, vulnerable communities will be better able to harvest and store rainwater for increased domestic and agricultural use throughout the year, adopt water-efficient agricultural practices, utilize improved land-use techniques for agriculture and livestock, and engage with local government and other actors.
- Kabul Area Shelter and Settlements Project (KASS): In response to a rapid increase in Kabul's population in the past six years, as well as the significant seismic risks, USAID/OFDA designed and is providing technical support to the KASS, which is providing more than 3,600 households with safe, adequate, and habitable shelter assistance. Vulnerable households are benefiting from integrated shelter activities, including training programs in seismic hazard mitigation.
- Incorporating Seismic Risk Reduction Into Disaster Responses in Indonesia: In response to the 2006 Central Java earthquake, USAID/OFDA implemented a shelter and settlements strategy² that linked immediate relief to longer-term recovery activities, while featuring incorporation of seismic-resistant construction measures. This activity was supplemented by training programs in seismic-resistant construction for carpenters and others, as well as a public outreach campaign on rebuilding with earthquake-resistant technologies. USAID/OFDA worked closely with government agencies and the humanitarian community to provide technical expertise on hazard mitigation.
- Resistant Sorghum Multiplication and Distribution for Ethiopia: USAID/OFDA is funding Catholic Relief Services to work directly with the Ethiopian Agriculture Research Organization to multiply and disseminate sorghum seeds that are resistant to striga, a parasitic weed that affects sorghum and maize production in many parts of Africa, including Ethiopia. The dissemination of such seeds has increased household food security, especially for subsistence farmers in some of the most affected areas of Ethiopia.
- Flood Proofing for Households in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam: USAID/OFDA is supporting the flood proofing of homes in the poorest flood-prone villages in the Mekong Delta. In collaboration with the Government of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the program is also training officials and the affected populations on the use of flood mapping to reduce loss of life, economic consequences, and disruption of livelihoods. The program is implementing river flood alert systems and a television and radio flood disaster warning system in three provinces and at the national level.
- Fuel-Efficient Stove Study: USAID/OFDA and USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade are supporting a technical evaluation of the efficiency of various types of stoves currently being used in northern Uganda

² Disaster response funds, not risk reduction funds, supported this activity, which is included in this fact sheet as an illustration of the way in which USAID/OFDA-funded disaster response programs include risk reduction activities.

and Darfur, Sudan. NGOs are distributing these stoves to households in an effort to reduce fuel consumption and thereby protect women and girls from attack by decreasing the number of trips made to collect fuel.

PRIORITY 5 – Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

- AI Preparedness: In FY 2006, USAID designated USAID/OFDA to help establish the United States Government Interagency Avian Influenza International Stockpile, as USAID/OFDA has years of experience procuring, transporting, and warehousing disaster relief supplies. USAID/OFDA developed and procured the required commodities for three standardized kits based upon best-practice recommendations of U.S. and international technical lead agencies. These kits contain essential items needed to support infectious disease field outbreak investigation and disease control. USAID/OFDA has also supported AI preparedness efforts in Cambodia and China, working with the American Red Cross and host country Red Cross Societies to facilitate AI preparedness and response workshops.
- OCHA Field Information Services Unit (OCHA/FIS): With support from USAID/OFDA, OCHA/FIS oversees Humanitarian Information Centers (HICs) worldwide and is secretariat for the Geographic Information Support Team (GIST). HICs provide information coordination services during emergencies, and the GIST provides a forum for strategic information management planning and data preparedness activities for countries of potential concern.
- Regional Disaster Assistance Program in LAC: Through the International Resources Group (IRG), USAID/OFDA maintains a network of disaster assistance experts located throughout LAC who are available to deploy to disaster sites, perform damage assessments, and provide guidance on disaster preparedness and mitigation activities. IRG consultants also oversee a multi-course program with instruction in disaster management concepts, training methodology, and technical disciplines. Since the program's inception in 1998, USAID/OFDA has trained approximately 43,000 participants and certified more than 4,200 instructors in 26 countries.
- Getting Fuel on the Map: This program aims to promote a coordinated strategy for fuel needs in disaster settings in order to reduce the impact on the environment as well as the number of attacks on women and children collecting fuel. In April 2007, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children convinced the Interagency Standing Committee to create a new Task Force on Energy, a crucial step in promoting the importance of energy issues in disaster contexts.
- RANET: Developed by USAID/OFDA, NOAA, and NGO partners, RANET provides access to and strengthens the use of hydrometeorological information by communities in day-to-day decision-making to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Since its inception in 2000, RANET has expanded to 16 African countries, with ongoing pilot activities in Asia and the Pacific.
- Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities: Implemented by ADPC, this program promotes hydrometeorological disaster preparedness through demonstration projects in six highly vulnerable secondary urban centers in Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Indonesia.
- Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response in Indonesia: International Medical Corps (IMC) is promoting the technical, administrative, financial, and logistical capabilities of Ambulan 118, a leading Indonesian NGO, to respond rapidly and effectively to disasters in Indonesia. IMC is strengthening and expanding training in emergency relief best practices and creating a training-of-trainers program. Both IMC and Ambulan 118 are pre-positioning medical and non-medical equipment and supplies in the field.
- Conflict Preparedness Program in Mindanao, Philippines: Implemented by Save the Children/Philippines, the program supports an emergency response network of local NGOs and community-based groups to implement preparedness and relief activities, provide grants to local NGOs, and create small stockpiles of locally procured relief items for emergencies.
- Private Sector Involvement in Disaster Assistance in LAC: Since July 2004, USAID/OFDA has supported the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) to promote private sector engagement and contributions to emergency management activities before, during, and after disasters in the LAC region. PADF has helped businesses to develop strategies that encourage quick mobilization of private sector resources for disaster assistance, and has brought emergency management training to private enterprises.

- Emergency Health Preparedness Program in LAC: Since 1998, USAID/OFDA has supported the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) efforts to promote improved disaster preparedness and response in the health sector. PAHO is increasing the capacity of health professionals to respond to disasters in the LAC region, and improving advocacy, technical information services, and human resources training in health, environment, and related sectors.
- Gender and Disaster Network (GDN): USAID/OFDA supports the GDN, implemented by the North Umbria University in England. The GDN is the main repository on the web for issues, reports, and discussions concerning the connection between gender issues and disasters.
- Building Safer Organizations: USAID/OFDA is supporting InterAction and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, which are implementing this project. This project is serving as an umbrella under which many organizations are collaborating to further professionalize humanitarian actions and staff, with the aim of reducing unintended negative consequences of relief and mitigation programs.